

Seksaria et al.
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Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the abstract, with the following rewritten abstract:

--A vehicle tailgate extension apparatus and method of using the same. The tailgate extension apparatus generally includes comprises a U-frame member, a plurality of hinge elements, and a plurality of side braces. The U-frame member may be locked into a plurality of operative positions optionally including a backstop position, an extension position, and a step position. The extension apparatus is stored within the interior of the tailgate until needed, and the extension may be pulled out of the tailgate via a plurality of storage channels. The side braces directly connect the U-frame member to the vehicle tailgate and may be stored within the arms of the U-frame when the extension apparatus is stowed in the tailgate.—

Please replace the paragraph 0038, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- Figure 10 shows a wire 186 which connects the tailgate handle 110 to one of the tailgate latches 180. A similar wire(not shown) (not shown) connects the tailgate handle 110 to the opposite latch. The latches 180 capture posts on the vehicle 20 when the tailgate is in the raised position shown in Figure 1. Release of the latches 180 permits the tailgate to be lowered to the position shown in Figs. 2 and 3. Following conventional practice, the latches 180, preferably, are spring loaded to the closed position. When handle 110 is pulled, opening forces are applied to the latches 180 through wires 186. Wires 186 pass through transverse slots 176 in reinforcing module 175.—